




COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
School Medical Officer,
FOR THE YEAR 1922.

By J. DOIG McCRINDLE,

Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer, and
Chief Tuberculosis Officer.



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Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1922.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the County
Borough of Northampton.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you the Annual Report of your School Medical Service for the year 1922.

The late School Medical Officer and the Assistant retired from the service of the Corporation some months previous to the end of the year and the appointments were not filled during the period.

I was appointed School Medical Officer at the beginning of the present year and have been engaged since in reorganising the school medical service to some extent, a task which has occupied all the leisure I could spare from my other duties as Medical Officer of Health. For this reason, as well as on account of the fact that I am not in any way responsible for the work carried out during 1922, the report is both as brief as possible and its publication has been unduly delayed. It closely follows the lines of the two preceding years.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. Dwyer-Pringle.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON,
JUNE, 1923.

STAFF.

The staff employed by the Education Authority in the school medical department has remained during the greater part of the year precisely as indicated in the report for 1921.

In September, the Woman Assistant School Medical Officer and the Senior School Nurse, having previously resigned, left the Service, and at the end of October, Dr. Skinnner, the School Medical Officer, gave up the work to take up practice elsewhere. Up to the end of the year none of these positions had been filled. The Medical Officer of Health as Supervising School Medical Officer assumed more directly the administrative control, but took no part in the actual routine clinical work. As far as other duties permitted, he saw from time to time at the School Clinic special cases referred by the nursing staff or by the teachers.

CO-ORDINATION.

Co-ordination with the rest of the Public Health Service was obtained on the same lines as in other years and for reasons given above was, if anything, more intimate during the later months of the year.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

In the report for 1920 this subject was dealt with at some length and for reasons given in the introductory statement to this report is not repeated here.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The age groups inspected during the year were three: "entrants," "leavers," and an "intermediate" group. These groups were defined in the last report. Besides these there were "special cases," which include all children referred to the Medical Officers and not due for routine medical inspection at the time when specially referred. All the routine inspections are carried out at the schools. The full particulars of these will be found in Table I. at the end of the report. This shows that of the code groups, a total of 2,853 children were inspected, made up of 1,064 entrants, 512 intermediates, and 1,277 leavers. In addition to these 309 were examined in school as new special cases, irrespective of those brought forward from the previous year. There was also a number of special cases examined at the School Clinic and the total number of these was 3,312, to which must be added 3,447 children who were re-examined. Section C of Table I. indicates that 5,717 individual children were examined by the Medical Officers within the year.

Compared with the numbers given in this paragraph in last year's report, it will be noted that these are smaller. The reason for this is apparent in view of the above statement regarding the staff. It will also be seen that the difference is most marked in the numbers for the intermediate groups. To some extent this may be accounted for by an alteration in procedure. In 1921 a special visit was made to the schools during the last quarter for the purpose of examining the intermediate groups. In 1922, however, this group was inspected at the same visit in which the other two groups were examined. Consequently during the early months, owing to the short interval which had elapsed from the last quarter of the previous year, the number of children which reached the age was smaller than it would have been if the inspection had been put off as in 1921.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Table II. contains, as in former reports, details of the defects found during the year.

Of the 3,162 children examined in school, 33·0 per cent. were referred either for treatment or for further observation. Of the 662 which were referred for immediate treatment, 542, or 81·9 per cent., actually received it.

The figures given in Table II. under the heading of Dental Disease include only cases found by the School Medical Officers, and considered to be in need of immediate treatment.

Table VI. deals only with those children coming under the code groups, and indicates that 13 per cent. were in need of medical treatment and that the most of these obtained it. Those children requiring attention on account of uncleanliness or defective clothing are not included in this table nor are any special cases outside the code groups.

UNCLEANLINESS. It would appear from comparison of the numbers in the present report and those in the preceding that the conditions as regards uncleanliness are steadily improving. Again the worst cases only are included and these are becoming comparatively less common, and when discovered are treated with less difficulty.

SURPRISE VISITS. Fifty-five surprise visits were made by the school nurses, an average of about two visits for each school. These were mainly for the purpose of enquiring into those conditions of cleanliness. During these visits 9,452 children were examined and 820 were found to be in need of attention.

NOSE AND THROAT. Of the children examined at routine inspection 2·9 per cent. were found to have defects of the nose and throat. Such were mainly enlarged tonsils and the presence of adenoids, evidence of which was found in 1·3 per cent. Table II. gives full particulars of the numbers in need of treatment or to be kept under observation for these conditions.

TUBERCULOSIS. No new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were found but three of tuberculosis other than pulmonary were notified from the school clinic.

HERNIA. There were twenty-three cases of hernia found, six of which were operated on, three supplied with trusses, and in the fourteen remaining there is no evidence that treatment was obtained.

In the Table which follows, the results of the treatment of all defects found are set out. It will be seen that about the same proportion (93·3 per cent.) obtained treatment as in the previous year. 73·8 per cent. of these defects were remedied, 13·2 per cent. improved, and in 6·4 per cent. there was little change. The remainder (6·6 per cent.) represents those who did not receive treatment or on whom no report is available.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS DURING 1922.

CONDITION.	Defects requiring Treatment.	RESULTS OF TREATMENT.			No. Report available.	Defects not treated.
		Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	65	38	4	12	7	4
Footgear	4	3	1	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head	552	278	178	41	17	38
Cleanliness of Body	67	38	12	14	2	1
Nutrition	8	1	4	1	2	—
Nose and Throat...	243	155	40	21	15	12
External Eye Dis....	311	243	36	21	10	1
Ear Disease	179	86	69	20	4	—
Teeth	81	23	13	—	—	45
Heart & Circulation	15	3	6	6	—	—
Lungs	27	17	5	2	3	—
Nervous System ...	30	13	9	5	2	1
Skin	1140	1017	82	28	13	—
Rickets	4	2	2	—	—	—
Deformities	36	6	24	4	1	1
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)...	8	—	4	3	1	—
Speech.....	8	3	3	—	2	—
Mental Condition...	8	—	—	8	—	—
Vision and Squint	408	335	—	31	1	41
Hearing	137	80	19	31	6	1
Miscellaneous	827	728	38	17	25	19
Totals	4158	3069	549	265	111	164

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFLUENZA. During the early months school attendance suffered from an outbreak of influenza and 1,905 cases of this disease were reported by teachers amongst the scholars in attendance. 1,682 were reported in the week ending the 21st January. This represents the largest outbreak

since the wide-spread and fatal epidemic of 1918. The schools were closed on the 23rd January for a fortnight in the hope of limiting the spread of the outbreak. It is doubtful if this procedure is of much value for preventive purposes. Other measures adopted and proposed are described in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

MEASLES. There were 704 cases notified from the schools, almost all in the last three months of the year, but no school closure was considered desirable in this instance.

VACCINATION.

This Table gives the proportion of children at ages from four to seven years, found to be vaccinated (1918-1922).

AGES.	1918		1919		1920		1921		1922	
	Number Examined	Percentage Vaccinated	Number Examined	Percentage Vaccinated	Number Examined	Percentage Vaccinated	Number Examined	Percentage Vaccinated	Number Examined	Percentage Vaccinated
4—5 yrs.	607	12·8	710	9·0	630	7·6	503	9·7	329	7·6
5—6 „	584	15·1	550	10·7	414	11·6	589	8·3	431	10·4
6—7 „	302	18·9	208	11·1	182	15·4	204	14·7	117	11·1

FOLLOWING-UP.

Following-up children found defective, in order to ensure that treatment is carried out and to ascertain the results of such, is very valuable and indeed essential work, involving much diligent detailed effort. The number of visits made by medical officers and nurses to the various school departments for this purpose and to investigate other matters was 337 ; the number of children examined was 3,447, involving 4,830 re-examinations. Visits in connection with the investigation of diphtheria, scarlatina, and other affections numbered 172, and during these 464 additional children were examined.

The nurses made 231 visits to the homes of the children.

The details of the surprise visits to schools made by the nurses are given in the section dealing with uncleanness.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

The work of the School Clinic which includes special inspection, the treatment of minor ailments, dental, x-ray, and eye work, has been continued as hitherto.

In 1922, however, owing to the fact that during most of the last quarter the services of a medical staff were not available, and those of the

nursing staff much curtailed, the extent of the work was limited. The character somewhat changed, and this must account almost entirely for any difference in the figures from those of 1921.

Parents and guardians attended on 6,230 occasions and every opportunity was taken to interest and instruct them in health matters. This figure includes 1,971 attendances at the dental department.

The total number of children which attended was 4,229, making 23,644 attendances, as compared with 4,970 children making 24,928 attendances in 1921.

If those attending the Dental department are excluded these numbers will be altered to 2,704 children and 20,548 attendances.

DEFECTS TREATED.

The total number of defects treated was 2,443, affecting 1,684 children. No child has been counted twice, even if examined for more than one defect; further, no defect has been counted twice so long as it remained unremedied. A return of the same condition after cure, is counted as another defect. Attendances were 17,352 on 16,878 days, some children attending twice daily.

DISEASE OR DEFECT.	Number of Defects.	RESULTS OF TREATMENT.			No. Record.	No. of Treatments.
		Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Dirty Head	50	50	—	—	—	75
Ringworm (Scalp).....	98	75	18	5	—	1511
Ringworm (Other).....	68	68	—	—	—	238
Impetigo	287	260	21	3	3	1990
Scabies	27	25	2	—	—	105
Other Skin Disease	547	511	27	6	3	3288
Defective Vision and Squint	361	330	—	31	—	2426
Blepharitis	88	61	18	8	1	1122
Conjunctivitis	80	74	4	1	1	755
Corneal Ulcer	21	13	7	1	—	720
Other Eye Disease	56	52	2	2	—	268
Otorrhœa	123	51	58	13	1	3051
Obstruction	62	53	4	5	—	186
Other Ear Disease	15	15	—	—	—	61
Minor Injuries	339	323	10	1	5	1709
Other Defects	221	207	8	2	4	1287
Totals	2443	2168	179	78	18	18792

In addition to the above, 323 cases of repairs or re-fitting of spectacles are recorded.

INSPECTION.

The children examined who were referred for treatment other than treatment at the Clinic, numbered 623 presenting 689 defects ; of these 604 were treated and 51 were not ; concerning the remaining 34 no report was available. The statistics referring to these 623 children are included in Table V.

The number of children kept under observation for various conditions was 406, and 177 others were examined for whom treatment or further treatment was deemed unnecessary.

The Clinic is also used for the medical examination of teachers, bursars, student teachers, etc., as occasion requires and 42 of these were seen during the year.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS FOUND ON INSPECTION.

DISEASE OR DEFECT.	Number referred for treatment.*	RESULTS OF TREATMENT.					Number kept under observation.
		Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.	No. treatment.	No. Report.	
Malnutrition	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Uncleanliness { Head	72	58	6	6	1	1	1
{ Body	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Skin { Ringworm (scalp) ...	26	12	4	8	—	2	7
{ Other Disease	57	49	4	1	—	3	5
Eye { Vision and Squint ...	20	1	—	—	19	—	218
{ Ext. Eye Disease ...	17	13	—	3	—	1	2
Ear { Defective Hearing ...	13	3	3	6	—	1	2
{ Ear Disease	16	11	2	1	—	2	1
Dental Disease	38	12	9	—	17	—	—
Nose { Enlarged Tonsils ...	7	6	—	1	—	—	5
and { Adenoids	17	8	6	1	1	1	1
Throat { Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids.....	12	8	—	—	3	1	—
Speech Defects	4	2	1	—	—	1	10
Heart { Organic	1	—	—	1	—	—	8
and { Functional	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Circulation { Anæmia	2	1	—	1	—	—	7
Lungs { Definite Tuberculosis .	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
{ Suspected Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	—	—	20
{ Bronchitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	5
{ Other Diseases	15	11	3	—	—	1	26
Nervous { Epilepsy	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
System { Chorea	15	10	3	2	—	—	3
{ Other Diseases ...	4	2	—	—	1	1	2
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis .	4	—	1	3	—	—	2
Deformities	5	2	1	1	—	1	7
Other Conditions	340	272	19	22	9	18	64
TOTALS	689	482	62	60	51	34	420

*In the above group those only requiring dental treatment obtained it at the Clinic.

SKIN DISEASES.

The total number of cases requiring treatment was 1,140, and of that number 1,027 received it at the School Clinic on 7,132 occasions. The results were as follows :—remedied 89·2 per cent. ; improved 7·2 per cent. ; unchanged 2·5 per cent. ; no report 1·1 per cent.

RINGWORM. A diagnosis of ringworm of the scalp is never made on naked eye appearances only, microscopical examination with demonstration of the fungus being the deciding factor. During the year 189 of these examinations were made.

The number of cases of ringworm of the scalp on the records at the end of the year was 34, and of these 17 had been x-rayed before the year closed but further treatment was still in progress. The whole of the x-ray work is now carried out at the Clinic by Dr. Robson, and the subsequent epilation—a tedious and trying business—is done by the nurses. The number of heads x-rayed for ringworm was 60 ; other methods resulted in the cure of 27 cases.

The total number of cases of ringworm was 199 (scalp 124, skin 75) ; 162 (scalp 67, skin 75) were remedied ; three left the town, and 34 scalp cases were left over till next year.

OTHER SKIN DISEASES. Impetiginous conditions and scabies form the bulk of these. The number of cases of scabies, which had declined in 1921, was still further reduced and only 34 were found, in contrast to the 124 of the previous year.

EAR DISEASE AND HEARING.

The number of defects requiring attention was 316, 200 of which received treatment necessitating 3,298 attendances.

The results in detail were as follows : remedied 52·5 per cent. ; improved 27·8 per cent. ; unchanged 16·1 per cent. ; no report or no treatment 3·5 per cent.

Defective hearing was present in 165 children, and otorrhœa in 160. These numbers include all whether on routine or special inspection. If routine cases alone are considered the proportion of the total defects found was 3·2 per cent.

The following remarks in reference to otorrhœa made by Dr. Skinner in his report for 1921 bear so directly on the subject and are of such importance that they are here quoted word for word :

“ Remedial treatment in a great many cases of otorrhœa must be carried out regularly over a considerable period of time before cure is obtained. It is just here that parents, left to themselves, very often fail. The attention given to the ear, especially if improvement is not soon appreciable, becomes less and less, and finally altogether ceases. Too early cessation of treatment also in cases apparently cured accounts for many intermittent otorrhœas. The

proper cleansing and other treatment of the ear is skilled work requiring skilled supervision as well as adequate control of the young patient. It is for such reasons that the provision of facilities for the treatment of this and other conditions is necessary. The odour proceeding from untreated otorrhœa may be as bad as to necessitate exclusion from school. Many cases of deafness are due to otorrhœa, which renders early, persistent, and skilled treatment all the more necessary."

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

Three hundred and eleven cases of defect were found and 245 obtained treatment at the school clinic, involving 2,865 attendances. The results were: remedied 78·1 per cent.; improved 11·6 per cent.; unchanged 6·8 per cent; no report or no treatment 3·5 per cent. The chief conditions were blepharitis, conjunctivitis, and corneal ulcer.

DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

There were 389 children examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon (Mr. E. H. Harries-Jones) for the detection and correction of errors of refraction, classified thus:—myopia 29; myopic astigmatism 118; hypermetropia 8; hypermetropic astigmatism 138; mixed astigmatism 55; no defect requiring glasses 16; no change of glasses required 25. In 36 of the above squint was present. This is a defect which should receive attention as soon as detected.

The re-examination of myopes was carried out as usual; those which gave a good form test with no subjective symptoms were not referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon. The number of such re-examinations was 224, and in 36 cases referred back the glasses were changed.

The price of spectacles supplied through the Clinic was reduced on the 1st July, 1922, from 5/- to 4/- per pair, but 70 pairs were granted free or at a further reduced price. The money from sales received amounted to £61 12s, 3d.

DENTAL SUB-DEPARTMENT.

The work of the School Dental Sub-Department has not suffered from alteration or reduction of staff, like the rest of the School Medical Service, and Mr. Anderson, the School Dentist, presents his report as set out below. I do not feel in a position to make any useful comment at this time.

REPORT OF ARTHUR SHERWOOD ANDERSON, L.D.S., R.C.S.Ed.

To the School Medical Officer.

SIR,

A record of the work done in this department will be found in Table IV., Section D, at the end of main report.

No child is counted as more than one, however many the visits paid during the year.

The total number of children seen (including 683 re-inspection cases) was 2,479, of whom 1,436 received treatment by me (during 3,096 attendances), 814 for the first time.

620 or 59.1 per cent. of all cases treated for decay, exclusive of supplementary treatment of formerly perfect cases, were made dentally perfect, *i.e.*, decay was thoroughly eradicated; the percentage for routines was 65.8 per cent.

384 re-inspected perfect cases received supplementary treatment, which was completed in 234; 91 were partly treated, and 59 were cases still perfect, but treated otherwise than for decay.

Of 1,314 routines, 1,249 of whom were of the six to eight age period, inspected in school for the first time, only 5.7 per cent. were free from dental decay, and 452 or 36.4 per cent. of those with defects received treatment at the Clinic, 356 or 78.7 per cent. of whom were completed.

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

	Number seen.	Referred.	Accepted	Partly treated.	Per- fected.	Total treated.
1st inspection in school	1314	1239	532	96	356	452
1st inspection in clinic	243	242	239	119	114	233
Re-inspection non-perfects in school	63	63	39	8	26	34
Re-inspection non-perfects in clinic ...	133	133	130	74	52	126
Re-inspection former perfects in school	126	76	50	3	39	42
Re-inspection former perfects in clinic	179	109	107	34	70	104
1st inspection, found perfect, not for decay	—	4	4	4	—	4
Re-inspection, still perfect, not for decay	—	59	59	59	—	59
Inspected before 1922	63	—	—	14	49	63
Re-inspected before 1922	209	—	—	54	128*	182
*3 non-perfects.						
Totals, Routines	2330	1925	1160	465	834	1299
Totals, Casuals (Specials)	149	149	137	117	20	137
Totals	2479	2074	1297	582	854	1436

Of 1,503 inspected or re-inspected in school with tabulation of treatment required, the average number seen per session was 47; the re-inspection in school of perfect cases was formerly carried out in December and the treatment in the following year, the more urgent cases being taken first, this was not done this year, as treatment must now immediately follow re-inspection, otherwise the estimates of cost given would in many cases be void.

The average number of attendances of parents or guardians at first inspections in school was 18·9 per hundred children seen, and at treatment of all cases 51·7 per 100 attendances ; the total of their attendances in school and clinic was 2,266.

The total number of fillings was 859 in 754 permanent teeth, no temporary teeth were filled, as I have found treatment by nitrate of silver more effective and speedy ; this is really a system of filling by infiltrating the affected dentine, followed by silver reduction, and 2,594 temporary teeth were thus treated.

Nature of fillings :—Copper amalgam 16, silver amalgam 794, synthetic porcelain 49.

3,612 teeth were extracted for which cocaine was given on 1,543 occasions.

Of the 450 permanent teeth extracted, 70 were for crowding in 45 mouths, 7 hopelessly fractured, 18 too defectively formed to last, and 19 were formerly very badly decayed teeth which had only been treated to keep the bite open until the eruption of other teeth would effect that purpose ; the remaining 336 were for advanced decay or abscess, 220 in routines and 116 in casuals (specials).

Nature of " other operations," Table IV. D. :—silver nitrate treatment to 2,949 teeth (355 permanent) of which 1,281 were ground so as not to retain food, dressings 545, linings 168, cleansings 11, scalings 11, trimming of fractured teeth 18, regulation cases 21, lancements etc. 5, root fillings 2, a total of 3,730.

Average work done at the Clinic per half-day session :—new patients 3·3, attendances 7·2, fillings 2, nitrate of silver treatment to 6·8 teeth, teeth extracted 8·4, local anæsthetic cases 3·6, other items 1·8.

Cash received :—£126 19s., giving an average of 5/11 per treatment half-day session, of 1/9½ per child treated, and of 9½d. for each attendance made by a child.

218 applied for free treatment, 104 received it free, 16 at a reduced charge, 20 were still under consideration, 36 paid in full ; while 8 free, 18 reduced, and 16 to pay, did not attend, of whom 4, 1, and 2 cases respectively were not decided until the end of the year and had not been sent for.

This is the first complete year of compulsory payments, and while the work still makes good progress, it is below that of former years ; it is not possible to say to what extent this is due to the charges, as the work was greatly hindered throughout the year by the defective water supply, by special investigations which kept the record cards in a constant state of flux, and by the gradual alteration of the system of carrying on the work to suit new conditions.

The payments now run smoothly ; are collected by Miss Markham at the time of treatment thus involving no direct cost, the indirect being that of the investigation of 218 cases applying for free treatment, and loss of time through many of the parents getting the work done piecemeal, as they can afford to pay for each item.

Many of the non-acceptances after inspection are due to parents delaying until employment improves, rather than apply for free treatment.

The total number of individual children treated by me during my tenure of office, now six and a half years, amounts to 9,503, of whom 5,243 were made perfect, *i.e.*, decay thoroughly eradicated ; and many of the remaining 4,260 required little more to be done ; the work required involved 40,263 extractions, 12,845 administrations of cocaine, 13,388 fillings, and nitrate of silver treatment to 9,750 teeth.

During that period I have not found any evidence to support the old theory, which is being made much of lately, that sugar is the cause of dental caries, supported by the statement that the poorest of the poor children have the best teeth ; if they have, it seems an odd argument, as the staple diet of such has been for many years, bread with inferior jam, treacle, or syrup ; most of the children I find with perfect teeth admit the free use of sweets, while many with the worst are those whose parents say they have denied them sugar in any form.

The eruption of teeth with well defined caries even in breast fed infants, and the very rapid decay of the temporary teeth in general, rather suggest the health condition of the expectant and nursing mother ; as decay of the permanent teeth is comparatively rare, when, before their eruption, it has been thoroughly eradicated in the temporary set, and the teeth kept fairly clean, pointing to diet, saccharine or otherwise, having little effect.

Where treatment of a bad case has been delayed until the first permanent molars and the incisors are in place, the six to eight age, the surfaces of contact and fissures are almost always chalky in appearance, and despite cleanliness liable to break down ; this accounts for most of the supplementary treatment required, which would be very much reduced if inspection and treatment began with school attendance.

I have many requests for treatment of children about to enter the schools ; if I were allowed to treat such, they would begin school life in a healthy dental condition, and their attendance would not be disturbed soon after entry, as at present.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR SHERWOOD ANDERSON.

CRIPPLING AND ORTHOPÆDICS.

A summary of the chief causes of crippling in children under fourteen years of age so far as can be ascertained is as follows :—

CAUSE.	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
Infantile Paralysis	17	13	30
Other Paralysis	6	1	7
Congenital Deformities	7	6	13
Other Deformities	16	14	30
Rickets	10	7	17
Tuberculosis	18	14	32
	74	55	129

Acknowledgement is due to the courteous assistance afforded by the officials of the Northampton Crippled Children's Fund in compiling the list of physically defective children of which the summary is included in Table III.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

No important change seems to have been made in the dietary which has been described in former reports particularly that for 1919.

CENTRES. Clinic Buildings, King Street (principal centre); and Kingsthorpe Grove Cookery Centre.

MEALS SUPPLIED.	1922	1921	1920
Breakfasts	10,042	26,893	16,158
Dinners	11,780	30,251	18,713
Teas	9,804	17,072	16,505
Total Meals	31,626	74,216	51,376
Total number of Children fed ...	113	410	230

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

The total number of parents or guardians present at the medical inspection in school during the year was 1,220, a percentage of 38·6, as compared with 43·2 in 1921. Parents also attended during dental inspection or treatment on 2,266 occasions, as compared with 1,985 for the previous year. At the School Clinic they are welcomed, and in many cases specially sent for, and during the year came on 6,230 occasions. They were present during inspection or treatment, medical or dental, on 7,745 occasions, and the opportunities thus offered of interesting and instructing them in the nurture and care of their children were fully utilised. The visits paid to the homes of the children by the school nurses afford additional and valuable means of getting into touch with the parents, and 231 such visits were made during the year.

The co-operation of teachers, school attendance officers, and voluntary workers was commented on and acknowledged in the report for 1921, and the remarks made though endorsed need not be repeated here.

One point, however, needs emphasis, and that is the help which can be given by the head teacher in ascertaining exactly the full number of children within the particular group about to be inspected, prior to the visit of inspection, so that they may be readily available. It has been the experience that in some schools a number of children are missed from the inspection because the teacher is less careful in finding out and presenting all within the group. It seems quite practicable to find from the registers all children in the intermediate group (*i.e.* about eight years of age) yet it has happened that on the arrival of the inspecting staff a teacher when appealed to has merely asked all children who were eight years of age to stand in class, and without verifying the numbers from the register presented these for medical inspection. By such methods many omissions must occur. It is still difficult to impress some teachers with the importance of keeping readily available in connection with each child the Record Card of Medical Inspections and Treatment, filing them under some system in school and transferring them along with the child when he moves from the infants to upper departments, or from school to school. Many records disappear and valuable information, which cost considerable time and trouble to acquire, is thus lost from lack of interest in those reasonably held responsible. In spite of exceptional experience such as the above, the school medical service receives generally much appreciated and valuable assistance from the teachers.

WELLINGTON PLACE SPECIAL SCHOOL.

This School for mental defectives is periodically visited and the children in attendance inspected. Miss Longland, the Headmistress, has had long experience in this special work and devotes great attention to the care and interests of the pupils after they have left school.

The statistics for the present year I have in the main obtained from her.

Number on register at end of previous year	62
Number admitted during present year	9
Number left during present year	10
Number of register at end of present year	61
Average attendance for the year	57·1

Of those who left during the year, five boys and four girls have reached the age limit of 16 years and one boy was transferred to the Monyhull Colony.

Twenty-eight children were examined as to their suitability for admission and eight were certified as suitable, seven of whom are now in attendance. Two who had left previous to this year were re-admitted. One of these had temporarily left the town and the other had been exempted as physically unfit but has recovered.

AGES OF CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE.

AGES.	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
7— 8 years	1	1	2
8— 9 „	1	—	1
9—10 „	5	3	8
10—11 „	12	2	14
11—12 „	2	5	7
12—13 „	4	1	5
13—14 „	4	6	10
14—15 „	3	2	5
15—16 „	6	3	9
Total	38	23	61

AFTER-CARE.

Since this school was opened in 1907, one hundred and sixty-seven children have passed out after varying periods of stay as pupils. A Committee of Voluntary Workers has from the first interested itself in the subsequent welfare of these, and Miss Longland, headmistress of the school, who acts as secretary to this committee, has again supplied the information on which the following summary is based. The grouping is similar to that in former recent reports.

GROUP I.

Deceased	19
In the Workhouse	10
In Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb	1
In Institutions for Feeble-minded	7
Left the town	10
Cared for at home but incapable of Work	32
Returned from Institutions	3
In Asylum	3
	—
	85
	—

GROUP II.

Soldiers	1
Coal Porters	7
In Boot Factories	33
Working on Land	5
Domestic Service	11
At Home (household duties)	8
Married (household duties)	9
Returned to Ordinary School	8
	—
	82
	—

Miss Longland remarks "Owing to the depression in trade a great many of these are unemployed. If trade were normal the above table shows that 61·5 per cent. of the children passed out of the Special School would be wage-earners."

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Only two inspections of the Secondary School for Girls took place during the year as the Assistant School Medical Officer retired from the service in September.

The girls examined comprised five groups:—

- 1.—Girls of 12 years old.
- 2.—Girls of 15 years old.
- 3.—Entrants not included in the above age groups.
- 4.—Leavers not included in the above age groups.
- 5.—Special Cases.

The number of routine cases inspected was 141, and the number of specials—including cases carried forward from the previous year, was 36. 58 children were re-examined, involving 88 re-examinations.

The number of routine cases referred for treatment out of 141 inspected was 16 (11·3 per cent.), and of these 12 (75 per cent.) obtained this. The number referred for treatment out of 169 individual children inspected (*see* Table I.S.) was 40 (23·6 per cent.), and 31 of these latter (77·5 per cent.) the advice in regard to treatment was followed. In all save one or two this was the work of the private medical advisor.

The parents were notified of the date and time of the inspection and were invited to be present. They took great interest in the inspection, as is evidenced by the fact that 65, *i.e.*, 45·7 per cent. attended.

The chief faults found were defects of vision and minor deformities. The conditions as to nutrition, cleanliness, clothing, and footgear were satisfactory.

The numbers examined in any age group are still too small to allow of real comparison as regards height and weight between elementary and secondary school children, but so far the latter appear to some advantage. In the twelve to thirteen age group, 24 children were inspected in the Secondary School, and the average height and weight worked out at 145·05 centimetres and 35·33 kilos., as compared with an average of 141·03 centimetres and 33·65 kilos. amongst 486 girls inspected during the year in the Public Elementary Schools. The condition of the teeth also was better.

The following three tables represent the conditions found, but in the present report these must pass uncommented on.

TABLE I.S.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age Group.	Entrants.	12 years.	15 years.	Leavers.	Total.
Number examined ...	17	24	62	38	141

B.—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

	Special Cases.	Re-examined.
Number examined	36	58

C.—TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN INSPECTED WHETHER AS ROUTINE OR SPECIAL CASES.

No. of Individual Children Inspected.
169

TABLE II.S.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
	Number referred for Treatment.	Number to be kept under Observation	Number referred for Treatment	Number to be kept under Observation
Malnutrition.....	1	1	—	—
Defective Vision	4	6	4	4
Ear { Defective Hearing ...	1	—	3	—
{ Otitis Media	1	—	1	—
Nose { Enlarged Tonsils	1	—	—	—
and { Adenoids.....	1	—	—	—
Throat { Other Conditions	—	1	—	2
Teeth—Dental Disease	2	—	9	—
Heart { Heart Disease—	—	—	—	2
and { Organic				1
Circu- { Functional	—	—	—	—
lation { Anæmia	1	—	—	—
Nervous System—Chorea ...	1	—	—	—
Deform- { Spinal Curvature	1	—	5	—
ities { Other Forms ...	5	—	3	—
Other Defects and Diseases	1	3	1	3

Number of Individual Children having Defects which required Treatment or to be kept under Observation 59

TABLE III.S.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Defect or Disease.	Number referred for Treatment.		Results of Treatment.			No Treatment.	No Report.
	Routines.	Specials.	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Malnutrition	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Defective Vision	4	4	4	—	—	4	—
Ear { Defective Hearing	1	3	1	1	2	—	—
{ Otitis Media	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
Nose and { Enlarged Tonsils ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Throat { Adenoids.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Teeth—Dental Disease	3	9	7	—	—	3	1
Anæmia	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chorea	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deform- { Spinal Curvature ...	1	5	2	2	1	1	—
ities { Other Forms	5	3	5	2	—	—	1
Other Defects or Diseases	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	20	26	24	7	5	8	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Under this heading is included the examination of student teachers, probationers, scholarship candidates, etc.

The numbers examined during the year were as follows:—

	BOYS.	GIRLS.
Bursars	5	—
Probationers	25	7
Student Teachers	—	5
Totals	30	12

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.*

Age.	Entrants.					Total.
	3.	4.	5.	6.	Other Ages.	
Boys	76	170	211	64	28	549
Girls	60	159	220	53	23	515
Totals	136	329	431	117	51	1064

Age.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.			Other Ages	Total.	Grand Total.
	8.	12.	13.	14.			
Boys	226	571	130	9	...	936	1485
Girls	286	486	76	5	...	853	1368
Totals ...	512	1057	206	14	...	1789	2853

B.—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

	Special Cases.†	Re-Examinations (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	1586	1679
Girls	1726	1768
Totals	3312	3447

C.—TOTAL NUMBER OF *Individual Children* INSPECTED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICERS, WHETHER AS ROUTINE OR SPECIAL CASES.
(*No Child being counted more than once in one Year*).

No. of Individual Children inspected.
5717

**Routine Medical Inspection* is medical inspection carried out on the lines of the approved Schedule at the time when routine medical inspection is due and made on the school premises or other place sanctioned by the Board of Education under the Code.

†“ *Special Cases* ” are those children specifically referred to the Medical Officer and not due for routine medical inspection under the Code at the time when specially referred. Such children may or may not be of Code-group age and may be referred to the Medical Officer at the school or the clinic by the Committee, Medical Officers, School Nurses, Teachers, Attendance Officers, Parents, or otherwise.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1922.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.		ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIALS.*	
		Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition		4	45	4	60
Uncleanliness—Head		166	1	386	1
Uncleanliness—Body		28	4	39	2
Skin	{ Ringworm—Head	3	...	121	9
	{ Ringworm—Body	2	...	73	...
	{ Scabies	2	...	32	...
	{ Impetigo	7	...	301	...
	{ Other Diseases (non-tuberculous)	10	1	589	5
Eye	{ Blepharitis	28	...	97	...
	{ Conjunctivitis	8	...	87	...
	{ Keratitis	1	...	5	...
	{ Corneal Ulcer .....	...	...	22	...
	{ Corneal Opacities .....	...	...	...	...
	Defective Vision	130	125	271	281
	Squint	12	3	34	9
	Other Conditions	3	...	60	2
Ear	{ Defective Hearing	51	17	86	11
	{ Otitis Media	23	1	136	...
	{ Other Ear Diseases .....	...	...	20	1
Nose and Throat	{ Enlarged Tonsils	3	26	7	35
	{ Adenoids	2	2	28	7
	{ Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	2	3	20	3
	{ Other Conditions	32	14	149	21
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous)	2	3	36	12
	Defective Speech	1	7	7	17
	Teeth—Dental Disease	16	...	65	...
Heart & Circulation	{ Heart Disease—Organic	1	12	4	37
	{ Heart Disease—Functional.....	1	18	...	20
	{ Anæmia	2	8	7	17
Lungs	{ Bronchitis	1	24	2	15
	{ Other Non-tuberculous Diseases	5	64	17	55
	Pulmonary :—				
	{ Definite .....	...	1	...	12
	{ Suspected .....	...	13	2	20
Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary :—				
	{ Glands.....	1	1	1	2
	{ Spine .....	...	...	1	...
	{ Hip .....	...	...	1	2
	{ Other Bones and Joints ...	...	...	1	1
	{ Skin	1	...	...	...
Nervous System	{ Other Forms	2	1	...	...
	{ Epilepsy .....	...	6	5	7
	{ Chorea	3	...	17	3
	{ Other Conditions .....	...	1	5	7
Deformities	{ Rickets .....	...	1	4	6
	{ Spinal Curvature	5	5	6	6
	{ Other Forms	6	4	19	10
	Other Defects and Diseases	31	35	766	82

NUMBER OF *Individual Children* HAVING DEFECTS WHICH REQUIRED TREATMENT OR TO BE KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION 3667

*See footnote † in Table I.

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1922.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind. (including partially blind), within the meaning of the Ele- mentary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	3	...	3
		Not at School	2	1	3
Deaf and Dumb. (including partially deaf), within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	6	3	9
		Not at School	1	...	1
Mentally Deficient.	Feeble Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	2	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	42	24	66
		Notified to the Local Control Author- ity by Local Education Authority during the year ... ..	...	...	...
		Not at School	1	2	3
	Imbeciles.	At School ... ..	...	...	...
		Not at School	4	6	10
		Notified to the Local Control Author- ity by Local Education Authority during the year ... ..	...	...	...
	Idiots.	Not at School	4	1	5
		Notified to the Local Control Author- ity by Local Education Authority during the year ... ..	...	...	...
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	8	3	11
		Attending Certified Schools for Epi- leptics	1	...	1
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		Not at School	1	...	1
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	10	13	23
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools ... ..	...	2	2
		Not at School	4	2	6
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	10	7	17
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	3	1	4
		Not at School	6	5	11
	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis <i>i.e.</i> , Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	46	37	83
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	1	...	1
		Not at School	9	4	13
	Other Physical Defect- ives, <i>e.g.</i> , delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools ; children suffering from severe heart disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	21	26	47
		Attending Open-Air Schools ...	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open-Air Schools ...	...	...	...
		Not at School	5	7	12
Dull or Backward.*		Retarded 2 years	280	410	690
		Retarded 3 years	89	102	191

*Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1922.
A.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm-Head	124	98	24	122
Ringworm-Body	75	68	7	75
Scabies	34	27	7	34
Impetigo	308	287	21	308
Minor Injuries	385	339	41	380
Other Skin Disease	599	547	47	594
<i>Ear Disease</i>	316	200	106	306
<i>Eye Disease</i> (external and ... other)	311	245	57	302
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	442	221	191	412

B.—TREATMENT OF VISUAL DEFECT.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction.	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were Prescribed.	For whom Glasses were Provided.	Recommended for Treatment other than by Glasses.	Received other Forms of Treatment.	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme—Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Other-wise.	Total.					
436	389	3	2	394	353	322	2	2	39

C.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Referred for Treatment.	Number of Children.			
	Received Operative Treatment.			Received other Forms of Treatment.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme—Clinic or Hospital.*	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
243	3	20	23	193

* The Local Education Authority's scheme was not sanctioned by the Board of Education and was postponed.

D.—TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1). *Number of Children dealt with.*

	AGE GROUPS.														"Specials."	Total.
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
(a) Inspected by Dentist	4	34	77	667	656	89	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	149	1706
Re-inspected .....	...	1	12	76	130	58	54	50	25	51	33	6	5	—	501
TOTALS	4	35	89	743	786	147	84	50	25	51	33	6	5	149	2207	
(b) Referred for Treatment								1925						149	2074	
(c) Actually treated								1299						137	1436	
(d) Re-treated* (result of periodical examination)								379						...	379	

*It is understood that cases under this heading are also included under (c) above.

NOTE.—Included in (c) are 63 inspected and in (c) and (d) 182 re-inspected before 1922, making with 27 re-inspected but only given advice, the total number of children seen during the year 2,479.

(2). *Particulars of Time given and of Operations undertaken.*

No. of Half Days devoted to Inspection.	No. of Half Days devoted to Treatment.	Total No. of Attendances made by the Children at the Clinic.	No. of Permanent Teeth.		No. of Temporary Teeth.		Total No. of Fillings.	No. of Administrations of Local Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6).*	No. of other Operations.	
			Ex-tracted.	Filled.	Ex-tracted.	Filled.			Permanent Teeth.	Temporary Teeth.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
32	429†	3096	450	754	3162	...	859	1543	1136	2594

*No general anæsthetics were administered.

†This includes 22 half-days during closure of schools on account of Influenza.

TABLE V.—SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF DEFECTS, 1922

DISEASE OR DEFECT.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Minor Ailments	2594	2032	501	2533
Visual Defects	436	389	5	394
Defects of Nose and Throat	243	3	213	216
Dental Defects	2074	1436	...	1436
Other Defects	174	...	131	131
Total	5521	3860	850	4710

TABLE VI.—SUMMARY RELATING TO CHILDREN MEDICALLY INSPECTED AT THE ROUTINE INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1922.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspection	2853
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from—	
Malnutrition	49
Skin Disease	25
Defective Vision (including Squint)	270
Eye Disease	40
Defective Hearing	68
Ear Disease	24
Nose and Throat Disease	84
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous)	5
Defective Speech	8
Dental Disease	16
Heart Disease—	
Organic	13
Functional	19
Anæmia	10
Lung Disease (non-tuberculous)	94
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary { definite	1
{ suspected	13
Non-pulmonary	6
Disease of the Nervous System	10
Deformities	21
Other defects and diseases... ..	66
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or foot-gear) who require to be kept under observation but were not referred for treatment	387
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	372
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects.	319

